

## ABSTRACT

A honeycomb structure comprising porous partition walls disposed so as to form a plurality of cells extending in an axial direction. In the honeycomb structure, defining  
5 that a porosity and pore diameter of the partition walls in a central portion is  $(P_i)$  and  $(D_i)$ , a porosity and pore diameter of the partition walls in an outer peripheral portion is  $(P_o)$  and  $(D_o)$ ,  $(P_i)$  and  $(P_o)$  have a relation of  $(P_i < P_o)$ ; or  $(P_i)$  and  $(P_o)$  have a relation of  $(P_i > P_o)$  and  
10  $(D_i)$  and  $(D_o)$  have a relation of  $(D_i < D_o)$ .